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Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-fifth session of the Commission/
sixteenth meeting of the Conference
of Ministers

Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
15-19 May 1990

LC/NAIROBI.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON OTHER RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS
ADOPTED BY THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION/FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

1. The twenty-fourth session of the Commission and fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning was held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 6 to 10 April 1989. The meeting adopted 22 resolutions embracing various socio-economic development issues in the region of Africa. Among those resolutions, six were addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The actions taken on those resolutions are reported in document E/ECA/CM.16/27 entitled "Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1989 and by the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-fourth session in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa". The other resolutions were addressed to member States, the ECA Executive Secretary, organs of the United Nations and other organizations. The purpose of the present document is, therefore, to provide the meeting with an account of action taken by the ECA secretariat towards the implementation of some of those other resolutions addressed to the Executive Secretary.

Resolution 656 (XIV): Proclamation of a second Industrial Development Decade for Africa

2. After the adoption of this resolution, the secretariat submitted it to the ninth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry held in May 1989 in Harare, Zimbabwe, together with the report on the independent mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA) programme. After considering the two documents, the Conference adopted resolution 2 (IX) establishing a timetable for the preparation of the programme for a second IDDA.

3. In July 1989, the ECA resolution was put before the Industrial Development Board at its fifth meeting, together with resolution 2 (IX) of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry. The Industrial Development Board endorsed the timetable prepared by the ninth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry along with the recommendations of the independent team of experts entrusted with the mid-term evaluation of the first IDDA and adopted decision IBB.5/Dec/7 of 6 July 1989 in which it recommended that the third General Conference of UNIDO should request the General Assembly of the United Nations to proclaim, at its forty-fourth session, a second Industrial Development Decade for Africa. The Board also recommended that the \$US 8.6 million allocated in the 1990-1991 programme budget of UNIDO for a special programme for Africa should be earmarked for the proposed second IDDA.

4. After considering the ECA Conference of Ministers resolution and taking into account the recommendation of the fifth meeting of the Industrial Development Board, the 1989 second regular session of ECOSOC adopted resolution

1989/115 which also requested the General Assembly, at its forty-fourth session, to consider proclaiming the period 1991-2000 as the second IDDA. The ECOSOC resolution further requested that the Secretary-General should provide the General Assembly with proposals and cost estimates for the preparation of the programme for the second IDDA on the basis of the timetable proposed by the Conference of African Ministers of Industry in resolution 2 (IX), and in consultation with the Director General of UNIDO.

5. Following the adoption of the ECOSOC resolution, a report on the preparations for the second IDDA was prepared by ECA in consultation with UNIDO in September 1989 and sent to the Office of the Controller in New York through the Regional Commissions Liaison Office. The report included cost estimates of the preparatory phase (January 1990-June 1991) of the second IDDA, amounting to \$US 1,540,440 of which \$US 669,040 should be provided under the regular budget of the United Nations and the balance by UNIDO from the resources already allocated.

Resolution 658 (XIV): Strengthening development information systems in Africa

6. The resolution commended the Governments of Zambia and Zaire for their support of the PADIS projects on the establishment of the Eastern and Southern African Development Information System (ESADIS) and the Central African Development Information System (CADIS) respectively. However, since the adoption of the resolution, government actions towards the establishment of the systems have not been forthcoming. Although the necessary computer equipment has been installed in Lusaka, the Government of Zambia has yet to appoint staff to operate the centre, as per the host country agreement. With regard to CADIS, the arrival of the Zaire Government delegation, which was signalled in April 1989, to sign the host country agreement, is still awaited. It is hoped that the Governments will soon take the necessary action for the fulfillment of their respective commitments under the host country agreements.

7. North African countries have begun their participation in PADIS through UNDP project RAB/38/012. Several training activities, organized by PADIS and sponsored by other co-operating institutions, have taken place since the approval of the project.

8. ECA member States and their missions in New York showed their support for PADIS in the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations, by trying to secure the necessary inputs for PADIS under the regular budget of the United Nations for the period 1990-1991. Since the request for regular budget posts for PADIS was not approved, the Committee noted that efforts should be made to secure continuation of extrabudgetary funding for PADIS. Should that not be forthcoming, it was noted, actions would be taken to secure the continuation of PADIS from the regular budget.

9. Since the adoption of the resolution, six additional member States have nominated national participating centres in the PADIS network, bringing to 28 the number of such centres.

10. No decision has yet been made by OANDP regarding the continuation of funding for the personnel component of PADIS Phase III through to the end of the fourth programming cycle; however, a tripartite review of the project has been scheduled upon appointment of the new director. Following that review, a decision will be taken. IDRC has indicated its willingness to continue support to PADIS through the consideration of a new grant for computer-based networks in Africa. Other donors who have funded PADIS activities since the adoption of this resolution are the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

11. A subprogramme of substantive activities for development information systems in Africa has been developed in the draft Medium-term Plan for 1992-1997, which is still under review.

12. Since the adoption of this resolution, PADIS has intensified its marketing efforts. It has produced a paper entitled "Guidelines for the marketing of information products and services in Africa".

Resolution 659 (XXIV): Review of the achievements of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres of the Commission in order to strengthen them

13. The field mission, consisting of visits to all the five MOPOC headquarters and to selected member States, was completed by the end of May 1989. The Review Team met twice to draft its report which was presented to the Executive Secretary of ECA and to the United Nations Under-Secretary General for Administration and Management. The report (E/ECA/CM.16/13) is being submitted to the twenty-fifth session of the Commission/sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers for its consideration and comments as requested by the resolution. The report will then be transmitted to the General Assembly through ECOSOC.

Resolution 660 (XXIV): Promotion and strengthening of subregional, regional and international co-operation in the fight against migrant locusts in Africa

14. In compliance with this resolution, a project proposal for the "Establishment of an African Regional Locust Monitoring Network" has been prepared. The proposal was to be considered by Project Analysis and Appraisal Committee (PAAC) for funding from UNIFAD on 24 November 1989. It is hoped that by the time of the Conference of Ministers more information will be available.

Resolution 661 (XXIV): Creation of an African Economic Association

15. In line with resolution 661 (XXIV) on the creation of an African Economic Association (AEA), the Steering Preparatory Committee of the Association met from 26 to 28 September 1989 to review and amend the draft constitution and the rules of procedure of the Association. These documents were finalized and circulated to several members who originally initiated the Association. The final document of the draft constitution and the rules of procedure were to be submitted at the General Assembly of the Association at its inaugural meeting

scheduled to be held from 13 to 14 January 1990. The ECA secretariat has endeavoured to secure funds from UNDP in order to cover the travel costs of economists who are invited to attend the inaugural meeting in January 1990, during which the officials of the Association will be nominated.

Resolution 666 (XXIV): Strengthening the capabilities of subregional and regional structures for the integration of women in development

16. This resolution contained seven operative paragraphs addressed to member States and ECA, three of which dealt with the fourth Regional Conference on the implementation of the Arusha Strategies and the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee (ARCC). As recommended, both these events were organized by the secretariat in Abuja, Nigeria, from 6 to 10 November 1989. ECA was able to mobilize funds from donor agencies such as JIBA, UNDP and UNIFEM. The funds went into supplementing ECA's own resources in order to meet the cost of participation in the Conference. The Nigerian Government contributed generously towards the organization of the Conference. High-level delegations led by decision makers were expected from governments and observer groups as stipulated in the resolution.

17. The other four operative paragraphs concerned ECA women's programmes at the subregional level. Substantive programmes for the advancement of women continue to be incorporated in the overall programmes of the MULPOCs in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 49/135. Except for North Africa, the subregional committees on women in development, set up through funds from UNDP, have not, however, been able to meet. Hence, in this resolution, member States are requested to take appropriate steps to extend the mandates of the bureaux of these subregional committees and that of ARCC. On the other hand, the Executive Secretary is urged to mobilize resources for the women's programmes in the MULPOCs. The secretariat is continuing to make every effort in this respect of particular relevance in the reformulation of the programme at subregional level and the recommendations made on the subject by the fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development.

Resolution 667 (XXIV): Measures for strengthening the Economic Commission for Africa's special programme for least developed, land-locked and island countries

18. In compliance with resolution 667 (XXIV) requesting the Executive Secretary of the Commission to take appropriate action to strengthen the special programme for the least developed, land-locked and island countries and to report on developments to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries, a request for additional staff resources was submitted to the Director General for Development and International Economic Co-operation whose response is still awaited.

Resolution 668 (XXIV): Economic Report on Africa and Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa

19. In accordance with resolution 668 (XXIV), the secretariat prepared and presented to the Conference and disseminated to member States and other users the 1990 issue of the Economic Report on Africa. The 1988-1989 issue of the Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa had also been prepared and made available to users. The secretariat is receiving collaboration from member States in its data collection exercise. However, late returns of the questionnaire continues to impede the timeliness of the preparation of these documents.

Resolution 669 (XXIV): African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

20. In accordance with resolution 669 (XXIV) on the future funding of the United Nations African Institute for Economic Development and Planning and ECOSOC resolution 1989/117, the ECA secretariat and IDEP management held consultative meetings with UNDP on the financing and future development of the Institute. To that effect, UNDP indicated its interest to continue its assistance to the Institute in 1990 only under the following conditions:

- (a) A commitment by African Governments to support IDEP;
- (b) A decision on IDEP's restructuring; and
- (c) An evaluation mission by the beginning of 1990 to assess the financial requirements of IDEP in 1990.

21. Accordingly, African Governments were requested as a matter of urgency to pay their contribution and accumulated arrears and the Sub-committee of the Governing Council met in Dakar from 15 to 18 November 1989 on the restructuring of the Institute in terms of the basic activities and the restructuring of the salaries. On the other hand, the ECA secretariat had requested the inclusion of IDEP's work programme in the Commission's work programme for the biennium 1990-1991 with a view to incorporating IDEP's core staff (four posts) in the United Nations regular budget. However, this attempt was not successful and efforts are now being made to include IDEP's work programme in the United Nations regular budget for the biennium 1992-1993. At the meantime, the ECA secretariat had provided IDEP with three posts at the P.5 (2) and P.4 (1) levels to enable the Institute to carry out its basic functions.

Resolution 670 (XXIV): Establishment of the African Monetary Fund

22. Pursuant to the decision of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance held in Libreville, Gabon from 16 to 19 June 1986, an Ad hoc Ministerial Committee was established to consider the outstanding issues related to the establishment of an African Monetary Fund.

23. The Committee, known as the "Committee of Libreville", first met in Libreville, Gabon from 31 March to 1 April 1987 and considered outstanding issues relating to the establishment of an African Monetary Fund, such as: subscription to the capital of the Fund, including size of the capital of the Fund and payment of subscriptions; membership in the Fund; size of membership of the Board of

Executive Directors and external participation in subscriptions to the capital of the Fund. After deliberating on these issues, the Committee adopted the following revised time-table regarding the establishment of an African Monetary Fund:¹

(a) June 1987 - Second meeting of the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee on the establishment of an African Monetary Fund;

(b) November 1987 - Fifth meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts;

(c) November 1987 - Third meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance;

(d) June 1988 - Sixth meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the Articles of Agreement establishing the African Monetary Fund;

(e) July 1988 - Progress report to the African Heads of State and Government;

(f) March 1989 - Fourth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance to adopt the Articles of Agreement;

(g) September 1989 - Meeting of Plenipotentiaries to sign the Articles of Agreement of the African Monetary Fund;

(h) January 1990 - Payment of first capital subscriptions to the Fund by member States; and

(i) June 1990 - Coming into operation of the Articles of Agreement and commencement of operations of the African Monetary Fund.

24. In line with the decision of the African Heads of State and Government regarding the establishment of the African Monetary Fund² and recognizing the important role that the institution will play in overcoming Africa's current monetary and financial crisis and with a view also to securing its contribution to the implementation of structural adjustment programmes, the African Ministers of Finance, at their third meeting held in Plantyre, Malawi, from 6 to 8 March 1989, decided to reactivate and expand the Committee of Libreville.

25. At its fifteenth meeting, the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning, regretting the considerable delay in establishing the African Monetary Fund, decided that the expanded Committee of Libreville should examine all outstanding issues in great detail by taking all

¹ Report of the first meeting of the Ad hoc Ministerial Committee on the Establishment of an African Monetary Fund (E/ECA/TRADE/13).

² See para. 254 (6) of the Lagos Plan of Action.

the necessary measures to ensure the speedy establishment of the Fund and submit its progress report to the next Conference of African Ministers of Finance scheduled to be held in October 1990.

26. Consequently, the expanded Committee of Libreville held its first meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 11 and 12 April 1989. It was attended by representatives of Ethiopia, Gabon, Malawi, Morocco, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and representatives from the Banque centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (BCEAO), the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the African Development Bank (ADB), the African Centre for Monetary Studies (ACMS), the West African Currency Union (WACH) and the Central African Clearing House (CACB). The following issues were considered:

- (a) Progress made on the establishment of the African Monetary Fund;
- (b) Particular work relating to the establishment of the African Monetary Fund; and
- (c) Appropriate measures to be taken for speeding the establishment of the African Monetary Fund.

27. After extensive discussions, the expanded Committee decided that:

(a) Further in-depth studies should be carried out on the objectives, structure and operations of the proposed African Monetary Fund in the light of current developments in the financial and monetary fields; and

(b) Extensive consultations should be held with African subregional monetary and financial institutions and governors of central banks who should be more involved in the work of establishing the fund.

28. Also, an *Ad hoc* Technical Sub-committee composed of governors of central banks of the member States of the expanded Committee of Libreville was set up at that meeting in accordance with the decision adopted by the third meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance. It was mandated to examine carefully the objectives, institutional framework and operational modalities of the African Monetary Fund, draw on the experiences that other regions had had in setting up similar institutions and prepare a comprehensive report on the technical aspects of the unresolved issues. It was agreed that the joint secretariat composed of ADB, ACMS, OAU and ECA should continue to provide secretarial and technical support to the *Ad hoc* Technical Sub-committee and the expanded Committee of Libreville.

29. Again, with a view to implementing the decision of the ECA Conference of Ministers, an Expert Group Meeting on the Establishment of the African Monetary Fund was to be held in Addis Ababa from 20 to 24 November 1989. That meeting was expected to review the following main issues:

- (a) Identification of major developments in the monetary and financial institutions at subregional, regional and international levels with a view to

determining their consequences on African growth prospects as well as the expected role of the African Monetary Fund and measures required to effect the structural transformation of the economies of African countries with a view to reducing their external monetary and economic dependence and simultaneously promoting monetary integration at the continental level as envisaged in the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos;

(b) Review of the revised technical feasibility study on the establishment of an African Monetary Fund and its recommendations so as to identify critical issues that should be included in the Draft Agreement establishing the African Monetary Fund; and

(c) Determination of whether the proposed African Monetary Fund was indeed required at the current stage in Africa's social and economic development and how its relationship with existing institutions should be devised. The experts would also determine whether the African Centre for Monetary Studies could be made the nucleus of the Fund.

30. The Expert Group meeting was to consider a document entitled "Feasibility study on the proposed African Monetary Fund" (L/FCA/CM.16/26) which had been updated in 1989 by the staff of AFMO, FCA and OAU in consultation with the OAU staff as the main background document on which the Expert Group would base its review of the technicalities in the establishment of an African Monetary Fund.

31. Finally, the meeting was expected to make concrete and practical recommendations or proposals that would enable African countries to speed up the establishment of the African Monetary Fund.

Resolution 611 (XIV): The current economic situation in Africa

32. In this resolution, the 5th Conference of Ministers expressed deep concern that in many respects the World Bank/UNEP report entitled "Africa's Adjustment and Growth in the 1980s" was at variance with the mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development at the regional level (the PAAERD), conducted by the forty-third session of the General Assembly, and also with the reality of the African economic situation and called on the Executive Secretary "to publish a paper highlighting the technical and statistical variances contained in the World Bank/United Nations Development Programme report, for an objective evaluation of the economic situation on the continent". It also requested that the "Commission's paper should be widely disseminated".

33. In compliance with the aforementioned directives, the Commission published and widely disseminated, both within and outside Africa, a document entitled "Statistics and Policies: FCA Preliminary Observations on the World Bank Report: Africa's Adjustment and Growth in the 1980s". FCA's document refuted the arguments of the World Bank/UNEP study, using in many instances the raw data of

the World Bank and citing other reports of the World Bank on the impact of adjustment and Africa's long-term development perspectives.

34. The arguments made in ECA's response have in general been well received by all concerned and have also been the subject of extensive commentary by the international press and media.

Resolution 673 (XXIV): Contributions by the Economic Commission for Africa to the preparation of the International Development Strategy for the fourth United Nations Development Decade

35. In response to resolution 673 (XXIV) on contribution by the Economic Commission for Africa to the preparation of the International Development Strategy for the fourth United Nations Development Decade and in particular to operative paragraphs 1 and 2, the secretariat revised the region's contribution to the International Development Strategy for the fourth United Nations Development Decade in the light of the comments made during the fifteenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers/twenty-fourth session of the Commission. The contribution to the preparation of the International Development Strategy was then submitted to the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the International Development Strategy.

Resolution 676 (XXIV): African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation

36. In accordance with resolution 676 (XXIV) on African Alternative Framework for Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP), the Executive Secretary of ECA held a joint meeting with the President of World Bank in Washington, D.C. on 10 May 1989 in which the Secretary General of the OAU, the President of the African Development Bank and other United Nations agencies such as the IMF, UNICEF and UNDP also participated. The meeting adopted a joint communique setting out areas of consensus between the organizations and future co-operation. This process of consultations and follow-up has continued with a meeting in Washington, D.C. at technical level from 27 November to 1 December 1989 between officials of the World Bank, the IMF and ECA. The Executive Secretary submitted AAF-SAP to the July meeting of the Working Group of African Governors of the IMF and the World Bank for inclusion in the memoranda to the Managing Director of the IMF and the President of the World Bank, as well as in the Joint Statement to the annual meeting. In pursuance to this, ECA was strongly represented at technical level at the meeting of the Group in Gaborone, Botswana, from 21 July to 4 August 1989. AAF-SAP was also presented to the 1989 second regular session of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations General Assembly by the Chairman of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of Economic Planning and Development, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of ECA, while the permanent representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations transmitted AAF-SAP to the United Nations Secretary-General for inclusion in the agenda of the forty fourth session. Both ECOSOC and the General Assembly adopted endorsing resolutions on AAF-SAP, resolution 1989/116 in the case of ECOSOC and 44/24 in the case of the General Assembly. The Chairman of the joint meeting of the African Ministers

of Planning and Ministers of Finance submitted AAF-SAP to the Development Committee of the World Bank and the IMF, and the Group of 24.